

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An ink jet recording apparatus comprising:
image forming means for forming an image on a recording medium by ejecting ink containing a solvent and color particles dispersed in said solvent;
fixing means for fixing said image formed on said recording medium by said image forming means;
collecting means for selectively collecting air containing said solvent from an atmosphere in proximity to said fixing means; and
removing means for removing said solvent from said solvent-containing air collected by said collecting means.
2. The ink jet recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said collecting means includes shield means for shielding at least a region in proximity to said fixing means.
3. The ink jet recording apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said collecting means includes suction means for sucking and collecting said solvent-containing air from the region shielded by said shield means.
4. The ink jet recording apparatus according to claim 2,

wherein said collecting means includes blowing means for blowing said solvent-containing air in the region shielded by said shield means to an opening of said collecting means.

5. The ink jet recording apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said fixing means includes a heating section that heats and fixes said image formed on said recording medium by said image forming means, and

wherein said shield means shields at least a region in proximity to said heating section.

6. The ink jet recording apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising:

preliminary heating means for preliminary heating said recording medium on which said image has been formed by said image forming means using air which has been collected by said collecting means and from which said solvent has been removed by said removing means, or heat of said air, prior to heating and fixing by said fixing means, said preliminary heating means being provided between said image forming means and said fixing means.

7. The ink jet recording apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said recording medium on which said image has

been formed by said image forming means is preliminary heated using air which has been collected by said collecting means and from which said solvent has been removed by said removing means, or heat of said air, to assist fixing of said image by said fixing means.

8. The ink jet recording apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

drying means for drying said recording medium on which said image has been formed by said image forming means using air which has been collected by said collecting means and from which said solvent has been removed by said removing means, or heat of said air.